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normally twice-compound leaf; branching of the leaflets of *Hicoria ovata* and of *Aesculus Hippocastanum*; and various stages of transition, in *Gleditsia triacanthos*, from once-compound leaves to twice- and thrice-compound ones, the transitional forms occurring in some instances on the same branch, and even on the same leaf. Rosette leaves were also shown from several species of Biotian asters, showing gradual transitions from a slight indentation of the margin of the blade along its basal half to the development of petiolate leaflets, so that the leaf appeared to be a pinnately compound one. The possible causes of these variations were briefly discussed.

Brief discussion followed the presentation of both papers.

The Club adjourned at 5:30 o'clock.

C. STUART GAGER,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. B. M. Duggar has resigned the professorship of botany in the University of Missouri to accept a professorship in Cornell University.

Mr. R. S. Williams, assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden, left New York for Colon on January 25, expecting to devote several months to making botanical collections in the Republic of Panama.

Mr. George E. Davenport, well known as a student of the North American ferns, died in Medford, Massachusetts, November 29, 1907. He had completed his seventy-fourth year on August 3, preceding.

Mr. Harlan H. York is in charge of the botanical work at the University of Texas, pending the appointment of a professor of botany to succeed Dr. William L. Bray, now of Syracuse University.

Dr. Burton E. Livingston, of the department of botanical research of the Carnegie Institution, has been granted a year's leave of absence, which he will devote to study in European laboratories. He sailed from Boston for Naples on January 11.

Dr. C. B. Robinson, whose appointment as economic botanist of the Bureau of Science of the Government of the Philippine Islands was noted in *TORREYA* for October, left New York January 21 on his westward journey to the Orient. He plans to sail from San Francisco January 30 on the *Mongolia* for Yokohama and Hong Kong.

Dr. Marshall A. Howe and Mr. Percy Wilson, of the staff of the New York Botanical Garden, returned on January 5 from a collecting cruise of about six weeks duration among the eastern and southeastern islands of the Bahamian group. Visits were made to Watling Island, Atwood (Samana) Cay, Mariguana, the Caicos Islands, Little Inagua, and Great Ragged Island.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science held its fifty-eighth meeting at the University of Chicago, December 30, 1907, to January 4, 1908. The sessions of Section G (botany) were presided over by Professor Charles E. Bessey. The subject of the address of the retiring chairman, Dr. D. T. MacDougal, before Section G, was "Heredity and Environic Forces." Professor Herbert M. Richards was elected chairman of the Section (and vice-president of the Association) for the next meeting, and Dr. Henry C. Cowles was elected secretary of the Section for a term of five years.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Botanical Society of America was held at the University of Chicago, December 31, 1907, to January 3, 1908, under the presidency of Professor George F. Atkinson. The program included an interesting symposium on "Aspects of the Species Question," the taxonomic aspect being discussed by C. E. Bessey and N. L. Britton, the physiologic by J. C. Arthur and D. T. MacDougal, and the ecologic by F. E. Clements and H. C. Cowles. In addition, twenty-six papers, giving the results of a wide range of botanical research were presented. The retiring president, Professor F. S. Earle was absent, and his announced address on "Botanical Problems and Opportunities" was not read. Officers were elected as follows: Professor William F. Ganong, president; Mr. C. L. Shear, vice-president; Professor D. S. Johnson, secretary; Dr. Arthur Hollick, treasurer.